

# SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

# CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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JUNE, 1878.


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CHICAGO:

PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS, 40 DEARBORN STREET.

1878.



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1877-78.

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DANIEL L. SHOREY, <i>President</i> ,	TERM EXPIRES, 1879.
ALBERT M. BILLINGS,	“ “ 1878.
FERDINAND C. HOTZ,	“ “ 1878.
BERTHOLD LOEWENTHAL,	“ “ 1879.
GEORGE MASON,	“ “ 1880.
WILLIAM J. ONAHAN,	“ “ 1878.
ABNER R. SCRANTON,	“ “ 1879.
SIDNEY SMITH,	“ “ 1880.
JOHN B. WALKER,	“ “ 1880.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES, 1877-78.

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*Buildings and Grounds :* Messrs. MASON, SMITH and LOEWENTHAL.

*Library and Reading Room :* Messrs. HOTZ, ONAHAN and SMITH.

*Finance :* Messrs. LOEWENTHAL, SCRANTON and MASON.

*Administration :* Messrs. SCRANTON, ONAHAN and WALKER.

*By-Laws and Regulations :* Messrs. WALKER, SMITH and HOTZ.

## LIBRARY SERVICE.

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*Librarian :* WILLIAM FREDERICK POOLE.

*Assistants :* WM. B. WICKERSHAM, LINA E. VOELLMY.

FRED. H. HILD,  
LEO J. MEILBEK,  
P. D. SCHIPPERUS,  
M. F. H. MOE,  
ELIZABETH A. YOUNG,  
KATE M. HENNEBERRY,  
HENRIETTA HARMS,

ELLA M. FREEMAN,  
GERTRUDE H. WINCHELL,  
EMMA A. BRISTOL,  
LENA A. ELKINS,  
ALICE M. QUIRK,  
THOS. F. SCULLY.

*Evening Attendants :* ALFRED E. BARR, JAMES LANGLAND, JOS.  
W. ERRANT, CHESTER C. BROOMELL, OLAF LANGLAND.

*Janitor :* ISAAC HULL.

# SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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The Directors of the CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY have the honor to present the City Council their Sixth Annual Report, as required by the seventh section of the act of the General Assembly relating to Public Libraries in the State.

The Annual Report of the Secretary and a Statement of the Comptroller, herewith submitted, show the condition of the trust on the first day of June, 1878, the amount of money received from the Library Fund and other sources, and how such moneys have been expended.

It appears from these statements that the entire expenses of the Library for the year ending May 31st, 1878, are \$33,787.58. The following statement shows the purposes for which the library money has been expended:

Salaries.....	\$13,224 90
Books .....	9,078 06
Newspapers and periodicals.....	1,277 28
Binding and repairing books.....	1,415 63
Incidental expenses.....	1,310 64
Furniture and fixtures.....	274 44
Stationery and printing. . . . .	645 33
Heating .....	212 00
Insurance .....	525 35
Rent .....	3,500 00
Lighting.....	576 18
Freight.....	262 99
Postage.....	176 88
Binding British Patents.....	1,307 90
Total.....	<hr/> \$33,787 58



The number of books now belonging to the Library is 57,984. During the past year 7,876 volumes have been added to the Library, of which 1,332 volumes were donations. The number of books loaned during the year is 354,506 volumes. The number of books lost or missing is 186 volumes, many of which will probably be found. The general character and kind of books circulated is shown in the report of the Librarian, herewith submitted. The number of persons attending the Library and Reading Room during the year is about 705,000.

The expenditures on account of the Library during the past year, exclusive of the amount paid for books, is \$24,709.52.

It is not practicable to reduce the expenditure incident to the management of the Library below that sum without vitally impairing its usefulness. There is no other library in the United States that does so much useful work for so little money.

On the 29th day of December, 1877, the Directors certified to the Council the following estimate of expenses for the current year:

1.	For salaries.....	\$14,000
2.	For books.....	15,000
3.	For periodicals.....	1,825
4.	For binding and repairing.....	3,000
5.	For incidental expenses.....	750
6.	For furniture and fixtures.....	500
7.	For stationery and printing.....	700
8.	For heating.....	300
9.	For insurance.....	500
10.	For rent.....	3,500
11.	For lighting.....	1,000
12.	For freight.....	250
13.	For postage.....	200
14.	For Binding British Patents.....	2,500
Total.....		<hr/> \$44,025

These estimates were made with the greatest consideration. They are based upon the necessities of the Library, as shown by its actual operation, and they indicate the limit below which it is not wise to go, if the Library is to be maintained creditably in the class to which it belongs.

The Council, however, seemed to have entertained different views and accordingly cut the estimates down to \$23,000.

It will be impossible to manage the Library upon system, so as to obtain from it the results the people have a right to demand, unless some understanding can be reached between the Council, whose duty it is to appropriate the money, and the Directors, who are charged with its management.

It is difficult to understand why so great a discrimination was made by the Council against the Library, as compared with the estimates of other departments. If such discrimination can be justified, except as a temporary yielding to present financial necessities, it must be on one or both of two grounds, that the Library is not managed with a due regard to economy, or that the citizens of Chicago can better dispense with a free public library than with any other of the agencies adopted for the promotion of the common welfare of the city. If the purpose of maintaining a free public library in this city is determined, then any withholding of the necessary means to carry on such a library is false and not true economy. Such a library cannot be kept up without constant additions of books. Last year 1,301 volumes were worn out and condemned. With the means now furnished, not one of those books can be replaced. The salaries might be reduced by discharging a portion of the skilled help; but to maintain a great library efficiently, requires skilled librarians and assistants in the same degree that a school requires trained teachers, or a profession professional skill. The Library may be closed evenings; but that would incommode a considerable portion of the people who cannot conveniently have access to it in

the daytime. In the opinion of the Directors there is no point at which further reduction in the expenditure can be made without the most serious detriment to the Library.

During the past year 354,506 volumes of books have been taken from the Library. The Reading Room, inconveniently situated on the upper floor of the building, has been constantly filled with readers, and many persons have used the privilege afforded on the main floor, where the whole resources of the Library are placed at the disposal of the readers. These uses of the Library, incomplete and imperfect as it is, by the people, indicate their appreciation of its value as a part of our system of public education. Our whole system of popular education rests upon the conviction that the safety as well as the good of society is measurably promoted by it, and that it is the best and cheapest means to obtain the end desired. All the youth are taught to read in the schools; but without these free public libraries, it is well known there would be, in most cases, few or no books in their hands to read. This condition of things has widely attracted the attention of public men in many States of this country, in Canada, in Australia, in England, and elsewhere. Out of that necessity the free public library has arisen as a necessary supplement to complete the system of popular education. New Hampshire has the honor of being the first to inaugurate the system, by a general law of 1849, authorizing towns and cities in that State to support such Libraries by taxation. In 1850, the first English Libraries Act was approved, and the policy of establishing such libraries has since frequently received the sanction of the British Parliament. For a quarter of a century it has been a distinguishing feature of the system of popular education in Canada. In the parting address of Lord Elgin, Governor General of Canada, he said, "I look upon your Township and County Libraries as the crown and glory of the inhabitants of this Province." Public libraries were authorized by general law in Massachusetts in 1851, under which one hundred and twenty-seven libraries have been established.



Similar legislation has followed in Maine, Vermont, Ohio, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Texas.

Public libraries of some sort have abounded in the United States since the time of Franklin; but they were established by a class of people for the use of that class; and there are about four thousand of them. The free public library has only been established by the generation of men now living; and it is a notable fact that the libraries of the latter class are taking the place of all others in the popular estimation. This popular acceptance of the free libraries is due to the fact that, being the property of the people, they are better organized, watched and supported than those established in the interest of a class.

This Library now ranks as the third of the free public libraries of the United States. As it has only been six years since it was established, perhaps this may be regarded as a creditable showing. Under more favorable conditions its usefulness may be largely increased. Other great free libraries, as at Cincinnati, Boston, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, are located in buildings especially provided for the purpose, and all of these libraries, except the library at Cincinnati, have each five or six branch libraries for the delivery of books near to the several residence centers of the people. It is desirable that like facilities shall be provided for this Library whenever the condition of the city finances shall permit the necessary expenditure. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that the Council will provide a uniform support sufficient to maintain the Library in the rank to which it belongs.

The law under which the Library is established provides that: "Any person desiring to make donations of money, personal property, or real estate, for the benefit of such Library, shall have the right to vest the title to the money, or real estate, so donated in the Board of Directors created under this act, to be held and controlled by such Board,

when accepted, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise or bequest of such property; and as to such property, the Board shall be held and considered to be special trustees."

It is true that, in the main, a free public library must rely for its support upon means uniformly provided by taxation, but private generosity can do, as for other such libraries it has done, much. Private donations have contributed no inconsiderable part in placing the Boston Library at the head of all the libraries in the United States. They have given to it large collections of engravings, and paintings and statues. They have contributed to it 110,794 volumes of its books, many of them so rare that their value cannot be estimated in money, and they have given \$105,000 in money. From the income of a single donation, the \$50,000 given by Mr. Bates, \$75,000 have been received and expended in the purchase "of books of a permanent value." The City Council has been uniformly in accord with private munificences. In no year has there been a failure to make adequate provision, including the most important of all provisions for a library, the annual appropriation for books. The twenty-fifth appropriation, that of last year, was \$111,500.

With like concurrence on the part of the people with the Council here, in a few years the Library may be built up to serve the same useful purpose, extending its beneficent influence directly or indirectly to every home and to every person in the city.

DANIEL L. SHOREY, *President.*

GEORGE MASON,

SIDNEY SMITH,

J. B. WALKER,

BERTHOLD LOEWENTHAL,

FERDINAND C. HOTZ,

ABNER R. SCRANTON,

} *Directors.*

# ANNUAL REPORT SECRETARY.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, }  
CHICAGO, June 8, 1878. }

*To the Board of Directors of the Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN: As required by the seventh section of the Act of the General Assembly, under which the Library is established, I herewith submit the following financial and statistical statements for the year ending May 31, 1878:

## VOUCHER ACCOUNT.

### RECEIPTS.

Amount drawn from Library Fund.....\$38,787 58

### EXPENDITURES.

Salaries .....	\$13,224 90
Books .....	9,078 06
Newspapers and periodicals .....	1,277 28
Binding and repairing books .....	1,415 63
Incidental expenses .....	1,310 64
Furniture and fixtures .....	274 44
Stationery and printing .....	645 33
Heating .....	212 00
Insurance .....	525 35
Rent .....	3,500 00
Lighting .....	576 18
Loan — Revenue Time Warrants .....	5,000 00
Freight .....	262 99
Postage .....	176 88
Binding British Patents .....	1,307 90
	<hr/>
	\$38,787 58    \$38,787 58



## CASH ACCOUNT.

## RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand June 1, 1877 .....	\$1,603 21
Received for books lost .....	117 87
Fines from delinquent book borrowers .....	1,959 57
Security deposits .....	71 50
From sale of old papers .....	50 31
Interest on deposits .....	8 10
Duplicates sold .....	2 75
Donation .....	1 00
Received from City Comptroller .....	1,433 45

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid to City Comptroller .....	\$2,855 00
Catalogues .....	37 25
Books .....	81 40
Incidental expenses .....	844 23
Freight .....	282 59
Newspapers and periodicals .....	73 89
Postage .....	190 51
Stationery and printing .....	19 25
Binding and repairing books .....	21 05
Salary .....	3 50
Heating .....	8 50
Balance on hand June 1, 1878 .....	830 59
	<hr/>
	\$5,247 76    \$5,247 76

Number of books in the Library .....	57,984
“ “ “ purchased .....	6,544
“ “ “ donated .....	1,332
“ “ “ unaccounted for .....	186

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF COOK, } ss.

I, W. B. Wickersham, Secretary of the  
Chicago Public Library, do solemnly affirm that the foregoing  
statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

W. B. WICKERSHAM, *Secretary*.

Affirmed to and subscribed before me, this 10th day of June,  
A. D. 1878.

[SEAL.]

PETER D. SCHIPPERUS, *Notary Public*.



# STATEMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND CHICAGO, JUNE 1, 1878.

## STATEMENT IN DETAIL.

<i>Credits.</i>	Tax Levy.	Taxes Col.	Taxes Uncol.	Lost.
Tax levy of 1872--	\$56,839 49	\$52,765 49	\$4,074 00	\$237 89
“ “ 1873--	49,931 68	44,353 18	5,578 50	190 50
“ “ 1874--	25,207 53	18,296 53	6,911 00	141 35
Appropri'n“ 1875--	25,000 00	21,210 76	3,789 24	110 67
“ “ 1876--	25,000 00	22,220 22	2,779 78	303 53
“ “ 1877--	34,375 00	9,222 99	25,152 01	
“ “ 1878--	22,999 99		22,999 99	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$239,353 69	\$168,069 17	\$71,284 52	\$983 94

### *Add*

Miscel. receipts ---	\$ 2,968 42
Temporary loans --	14,025 00
	<hr/>
	\$256,347 11

### *Disbursements.*

(Warrants drawn on the Treasurer,)

From beginning to April 1, 1873-----	\$ 5,254 83
“ April 1, 1873, to April 1, 1874 ----	19,360 02
“ “ 1, 1874, to April 1, 1875 ----	64,525 59
“ “ 1, 1875, to January 1, 1876--	29,579 50
“ January 1, 1876, to January 1, 1877	30,320 25
“ “ 1, 1877, to January 1, 1878	37,075 69
“ “ 1, 1878, to June 1, 1878 --	14,437 14
	<hr/>
	\$200,553 02

*Rebates on Taxes.*

From April 1, 1872, to April 1, 1873 ----	\$ 17 75	
“ “ 1, 1873, to April 1, 1874 ----	207 94	
“ “ 1, 1874, to April 1, 1875 ----	108 51	
“ “ 1, 1875, to January 1, 1876 --	126 01	
“ January 1, 1876, to January 1, 1877	192 13	
“ “ 1, 1877, to January 1, 1878	332 49	
	<hr/>	984 83
Total amount charged this Fund ---		\$201,537 85

## GENERAL STATEMENT.

Total tax levies and appropriations ----	\$239,353 69	
Total miscellaneous receipts and loans.	16,993 42	
	<hr/>	\$256,347 11
Total amount charged to Public Library Fund to date	201,537 85	
Tax levies and miscellaneous receipts unexpended..	54,809 26	
Total taxes collected .....	168,069 17	
Total miscellaneous receipts and loans.....	16,993 42	
Total actual cash receipts .....	<hr/>	\$185,062 59
Total actual cash payments to June 1, 1878.....	196,884 37	
Total actual cash receipts to June 1, 1878.....	185,062 59	
Cash payments in excess of actual cash receipts.....	<hr/>	\$11,821 78
Warrants issued on 1878 appropriation.....	3,668 65	
Vouchers on hand not yet audited by Comptroller..	4,246 87	
Temporary loans unpaid .....	2,600 00	
Amount paid by Treasurer in excess of actual cash receipts.....	11,821 78	
Warrants issued on 1878 appropriation.....	3,668 65	
Total amount of “vouchers on hand,” “temporary loans unpaid,” “paid in excess of actual cash receipts,” and “warrants on 1878 appropriation”	<hr/>	\$22,337 30

<i>Add</i> proportion of D. A. Gage defalcation chargeable to this Fund -----	6,308 00
Total -----	<u>\$28,645 30</u>

Omitting the D. A. Gage defalcation, it will require a collection of taxes amounting to \$22,337.30 to make good the obligations now existing, as itemized above.





# ANNUAL REPORT LIBRARIAN.

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CHICAGO, JUNE 8, 1878.

*To the Board of Directors of the Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN: I herewith respectfully submit my fifth annual report as Librarian, embodying the statistics of the Library for the official year ending May 31, 1878.

It is a matter of congratulation that, amid the unfortunate complications of the city's finances, and the reduced appropriations for its support, the Public Library exists, fulfills its beneficent mission, and has made substantial progress during the past year. An appropriation of only one-half the sum originally intended and provided for by the legislative statute under which the Library was established, has been sufficient, with the unexpended balance of previous appropriations, and by the exercise of the strictest economy in every part of the service, to pay the running expenses, and to add more than 6,000 volumes to the catalogue. In less than five years, a miscellaneous collection of 9,000 volumes, chiefly donations, has grown to be a compact and well-selected library of nearly 60,000 volumes, and with a circulation larger than that of any other library in the country, with the exception of one which has six times as many books, and whose annual expenses are six times as large. In a community with so large a population as Chicago, and where no other library exists, the present supply of books for circulation is altogether insufficient to meet the wants of the reading public. We have not copies enough of the standard books which are much sought for. In works of reference and books adapted to the wants of persons of higher culture, the Library is better supplied. A public library is not simply or mainly for the benefit of scholars and specialists. All classes in the community, many of whom have little or no

literary culture, have an equal claim ; and hence the Library needs a large accession of books adapted to the latter class of readers. These deficiencies cannot be filled to the extent that is needed until the appropriations for the Library are increased.

#### BOOKS.

The present number of volumes in the Library is 57,984. The number reported last year was 51,409. The accessions of the year have been 7,876 volumes, of which 6,544 have been bought, and 1,332 have been given. The number of volumes worn out and condemned was 1,301, of which 727 were novels, 485 juvenile books, and 89 of other classes. The net increase of books, therefore, has been 6,575 volumes. Of pamphlets, 419 have been added, 385 having been given, and 34 bought. The amount expended for books was \$9,078.06.

The number of volumes in each department of the Library, and the accessions made to each during the year, are as follows:

	No. of vols. in Library.	Accessions of the year.
History.....	4,085	286
Biography .....	2,334	239
Poetry and Drama.....	1,607	115
Essays and Miscellanies .....	1,326	72
Voyages and Travels.....	2,329	231
Polygraphy and Collected Works.....	1,854	40
Language and History of Literature .....	639	43
Fine Arts.....	548	44
Practical Arts .....	1,357	125
Natural Science .....	2,014	249
Political and Social Science .....	1,288	87
Mental and Moral Science, Education, etc.	497	50
Ancient Classics .....	427	3
Religion .....	2,120	123
Medicine .....	917	21

Law.....	366	15
Periodicals.....	4,821	776
Public Documents, State Papers, etc.....	4,702	1,003
Bibliography.....	466	30
Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, etc.....	941	141
German Literature.....	5,742	619
French Literature.....	2,170	32
Scandinavian Literature.....	1,079	118
Dutch Literature.....	710	6
English Prose Fiction.....	10,964	2,474
Juvenile Books.....	2,483	934
Italian Literature.....	96	
Bohemian Literature.....	102	
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total.....	57,984	7,876

Among the accessions of the past year was an unusual number of works of special interest and permanent value, such as:

CATLIN, G., North American Indians Portfolio; CLAUDE de Lorrain, *Liber Veritatis*, a collection of prints, 3 v. fol.; DUCANGE, C. D., *Glossarium Mediæ et Infimæ Latinitatis*, 8 v. 4°; DUGDALE, Sir W., *Monasticon Anglicarum*, 8 v. 4°; FACCIOLATI, J. et FORCELLINI, E., *Totius Latinitatis Lexicon*, 2 v. 4°; JONES, O., *The Alhambra*, 2 v. fol.; JONES, O., *Grammar of Ornament*, folio; London Horticultural Society's *Transactions*, 10 v. 4°; MCLAN, R. R., *The Clans of the Scottish Highlanders*, 2 v. 4°; MEYRICK, S. R., *Critical Inquiry into Ancient Armour*, 3 v. 4°; Musée des Archives Nationales, *Documents originaux de l'histoire de France exposés dans l'Hôtel Soubise*, 4°; National Quarterly Review (New York), complete set, 34 v. 8°; National Review (London), complete set, 19 v. 8°; PANQUET, M., *Illustrations of English and Foreign Costumes*, 4°; PANQUET, M., *Modes et Costumes Historiques*, 4°; Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, complete set, 169 v. 4°; Retrospective Review, complete set, 18 v. 8°; ROGERS, H. D., *Geological Survey of Pennsylvania*, 4 v. 4°; RUSSELL,



J. Scott, *Modern System of Naval Architecture*, 3 v. fol.; ROBERTS, D., *Egypt, Nubia and Holy Land*, 4 v. fol.; St. Petersburg, *Académie des Sciences, Memoires et Bulletins*, 21 v. 4°; STRUTT, J., *Dress and Habits of the People of England*, 2 v. 4°; STRUTT, J., *Regal and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of England*, 4°; TURNER, J. W. M., *Picturesque views of England and Wales*, 2 v. 4°; WARING, J. B., *Art Treasures of the United Kingdom, Manchester Exhibition, 1857*, fol.; WARING, J. B., *Masterpieces of Industrial Art, Exhibition of 1862*, 3 v. fol.; WYATT, M. D., *Industrial Arts of the Nineteenth Century, Exhibition of 1851*, 2 v. fol.; *Westminster Review*, complete set, 106 v. 8°; *Zoölogist*, 34 v. 8°.

#### DONATIONS.

During the year, 1,332 volumes, and 385 pamphlets have been presented to the Library.

The British Commissioners of Patents are the largest donors, 643 volumes of their valuable publications having been received. A shipment of 150 volumes has arrived since the close of the official year, and hence too late to be included in these statistics. The Library has now the specifications and drawings of the British Patents, from 1852 to 1868, in 1,208 volumes. The remaining portion of the set intended for the Library is now stored in London, awaiting an appropriation from the city sufficient to pay for the binding. In the meantime, the inventors and patent counselors of Chicago are sending to Washington and elsewhere for the examination and copies of these necessary documents.

The French government has sent nine volumes, in continuation of the splendid series of publications which it sent several years since. Hon. Wirt Dexter has given 131 volumes of the sessional documents of the United States Congress. The United States Government, and the States of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois have continued to send their current legislative publications. A list of the donors, and the number of their several contributions is given in Appendix A.



## BOOK-BORROWERS.

Since the Library was opened, May 1, 1874, no renewal of the registration of book-borrowers had been required until the past year. The registration up to June 1, 1877, had been 40,059. Some of the library cards had been out more than three years, and had fallen into the hands of persons to whom they were not originally issued. Many of the holders of cards and their guarantors had changed their residences, and it became very difficult, and often impossible, to find them. A rule was therefore adopted by the Board that every registration and every card issued upon it should expire by limitation at the end of two years. The renewal commenced June 1, 1877, and during the year, 33,127 cards have been canceled, and 11,831 new registrations, each with a new certificate of guaranty, have been made. The 6,932 cards issued the previous year being still in force, the entire number of library cards now in the hands of readers is 18,763, of which 11,992 are males, and 6,771 are females. The renewal of the registration has been attended with little inconvenience to readers, and has resulted very beneficially to the interests of the Library. For a time the cancellation of so many cards reduced somewhat the circulation of books, but later the issues have exceeded those of the corresponding period of the previous year.

## CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

The Library has been open for the circulation of books 306 days and 172 evenings. The number books taken out for home use was 354,506, or a daily average of 1,166 volumes. The largest number issued on one day, February 23, was 3,309, and the smallest number was 572, on July 26th, while the July riot was in progress. The daily average issues by months were as follows: June, 992, July, 963, August, 1,037, September, 927, October, 924, November, 1,025, December, 1,103, January, 1,385, February, 1,598, March, 1,535, April, 1,323, May, 1,158. From June to January, in conse-

quence of the cancellation of cards, and the withdrawal from circulation of popular books that were worn out, the daily average circulation fell off from that of the previous year more than two hundred volumes; but since January, when many of the popular books had been replaced, and the registration had been more largely renewed, the circulation exceeded that of the previous year.

From June 1 to January 1, the circulating department was open only two evenings in the week; and since January 1 it has been open every evening. The average evening circulation during the year has been 220 volumes. The average was the same, whether the books were issued two evenings, or every evening in the week. The necessary inference is that about a fifth of the book-borrowers and readers use the library only in the evening. They are persons who have no opportunity to come or send during the day, and if the Library is not open in the evening, they are practically deprived of its use. The amount received from fines for the over-detention of books, was \$1,959.57.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF CIRCULATION.

The circulation of English prose fiction and juvenile books was reported in 1875 as 77.04 per cent.; in 1876, 68.5; in 1877, at 62.57. The past year it has been 59.83 per cent., which is about 15 per cent. less than the average circulation of this class of literature in other libraries which are freely supplied with these books. The steady decline indicated in the above statistics may be explained from two causes: The mass of new readers first apply themselves to novel reading, and the more earnestly they engage in it, the sooner they are satiated, and seek for more substantial reading. If new readers were not constantly coming in to keep up the demand for novels, the statistics would show a greater falling off than at present. Another explanation is, that the novel department has not been kept up and replenished as the other departments of the Library have been. Thousands of volumes have been worn out and condemned, and until recently

none have been replaced. The restoration to the shelves in January, of about 1,600 new copies of condemned books, had the effect of immediately reviving the circulation of the Library, without materially increasing the percentage in this department.

The relative circulation of books in the several classes, expressed in percentage, for the past year, and the three previous years, has been as follows :

	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
History and Biography . . . . .	8.85	8.82	9.22	7.11
Voyages and Travels . . . . .	5.35	4.17	4.16	4.06
Science and Arts . . . . .	7.72	7.10	5.32	4.51
Poetry and Drama . . . . .	2.12	2.39	2.35	2.16
Works in Continental Lan- guages . . . . .	12.15	11.21	7.69	2.87
English Prose Fiction, and Ju- venile Books . . . . .	59.83	62.57	68.50	77.04
Miscellaneous . . . . .	3.98	3.74	2.76	2.89

#### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The use of books at the tables of reference has more than doubled the past year, 16,916 persons having availed themselves of the privilege, of whom 4,529 came to consult the American patent publications. The number of volumes brought to the reference tables was 37,498, which does not include the use made of the patent reports, of which no count was kept. Another table has recently been added, in order to accommodate the increased number of readers. At least 75,000 volumes have been used in the reference department during the year. The large reference rooms in the free libraries of Liverpool and Manchester, where two or three hundred persons at one time were engaged in study, were among the most novel and interesting features of library economy which I saw in my visit to England last autumn. Such liberal arrangements are needed in Chicago,



but are not practicable until the Library has the means to provide itself with suitable and permanent quarters.

#### READING ROOM.

The number of serials kept on file in the Reading Room is 308. Of these, 210 are periodicals, and 98 are newspapers. Of the periodicals, 96 are American, 74 English, 36 German, and 4 of other nationalities. Of the newspapers, 31 are dailies, and 67 are weeklies, of which 13 dailies and 37 weeklies are given by their publishers.

The number of visitors in the Reading room has been 181,052, and the number of periodicals issued over the counter was 115,275. The average number of visitors on Sunday was 280. The amount expended for periodicals and newspapers was \$1,277.28.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

The working force of the Library was the same as the previous year, namely, seventeen persons employed in the day service, and six in the evening service, with a janitor and assistant. The amount paid for salaries was \$13,224.90.

#### CATALOGUE AND FINDING LISTS.

The card catalogue is a complete and accessible record of all the books received by the Library up to the present time, and if printed, would add greatly to its working facilities. It is, however, in constant use, under the supervision of an attendant, for the benefit of readers.

A new supplement to the printed Finding Lists, containing the titles of about 10,000 volumes, is in type; and a new edition of the Finding Lists, containing this supplement, will be issued in a few days.

#### BINDING.

The number of volumes sent to the binder during the year was 5,579, of which 4,840 have been returned. The amount



expended for binding was \$2,723.53, of which \$1,307.90 was for the British Patents. The regular force of the Library has repaired 2,351 volumes, and has put 450 volumes into the Emerson binders. The arrangement made with Mr. T. H. Silvius for doing the common binding at contract prices has been favorable, so far as cost was concerned; but the work has not been done as expeditiously as was contracted for and expected. The books which most frequently come to binding are those which are much sought for, and their detention at the binders is a serious interruption to the circulation.

#### ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

The Annual Examination of the Library was made in April and May, without calling in the books, and on the plan which has been pursued for several years. The benefit of a new registration of book borrowers is seen in the fact that fewer books are unaccounted for than for several years past. Of the 286 volumes previously reported unaccounted for, 122 have been found. Of the volumes unaccounted for this year, 101 are novels, 31 juvenile books, and 54 of all other classes, making a total of 186 volumes.

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In September last I had the privilege of representing this Library at the meeting of the American Library Association in New York, and a month later at the Conference of English Librarians in London. The proceedings of both these interesting meetings have been printed in the *Library Journal*, and of the later meeting in a separate volume; hence it is not necessary that I should report on their work in detail. I may state, however, that the American librarians were received in the English Conference and by the English people with a friendliness and hospitality which could not be surpassed. The corporation of London gave to the members of the Conference an entertainment at Guildhall, and the Lord Mayor gave them a dinner at the Mansion House. Two of the American delegates were called to the

chair at meetings of the Conference ; and the elegant volume of proceedings lately published in London shows that our delegation were encouraged to do rather more than their share in the public discussions. The visit resulted beneficially in securing some valuable donations, selecting some choice books, and in forming associations which will hereafter be serviceable to the Library. The officers of the British Museum, the Bodleian, and other English libraries, gave every facility for examining the bibliographical treasures and methods of work in those noble institutions. A visit to Paris gave us the same privileges in the Bibliothèque Nationale and other libraries of that city. We also made a tour for the inspection of libraries in the large English provincial towns and in Scotland.

The American Library Association, at its late meeting in New York, adopted a co-operative plan of bringing out, under my supervision, a new edition of my "Index to Periodical Literature," 1853, with the references brought down to the present time, each Library assuming its proportion of the work. Forty-four libraries, including all the larger institutions of the country, are now engaged in indexing the serials allotted to them by the committee having the matter in charge. This Library, for instance, has 4,821 volumes of bound reviews and magazines, and the portions of them issued since 1851, when the references to the former edition of the Index stopped, are but little used, for nobody knows what they contain. Each Library, by doing a small portion of the indexing, gets the advantage of all the work done by the others. The Bodleian and several other English libraries have joined the American libraries in carrying out this co-operative plan.

WILLIAM F. POOLE,  
*Librarian.*

# APPENDIX A.

## LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Vols.	Pam.
Adams, Edwin F. ....	11	34
Aldrich, Hon. Wm. ....	1	
American Institute of Mining Engineers ....	1	
American Public Health Association, New York ....	3	
American Swedenborg Publishing Society, New York ..	1	
Andover (Mass.) Theological Seminary ....		1
Andreas Atlas Company ....	1	
Argentine Republic Centennial Commissioners ....	1	
Arundel Society, London ....		1
Asay, E. G. ....	1	
Bagg, M. M., Utica, N. Y. ....	1	
Baldwin, D. P., Logansport, Ind. ....		1
Baldwin, O. S., New York City ....	4	
Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University ....		2
Baltimore, Peabody Institute ....		1
Barrett, O. W. ....	1	
Belden, Henry, New York City ....		1
Berkeley (Cal.) California University ....	1	3
Birmingham (Eng.) Free Libraries ....		1
Boston, City of ....	3	
Boston, Channing Home ....		1
Boston, Public Library ....	1	8
Boutell, L. H. ....		1
Bradlee, Rev. C. D., Boston ....		1
Brighton (Eng.), Free Library ....		1
Brockhaus, F. A., Leipzig ....	1	8
Brookline (Mass.), Public Library ....		1
Brooklyn (N. Y.), Mercantile Library ....		1



	Vols.	Pam.
Bross, Hon. Wm.....		I
Brucker, Joseph, Milwaukee .....		I
Budapest (Hungary), Bureau de Statistique .....	I	5
Buffalo (N. Y.), Young Men's Association .....	2	3
Burlington (Vt.), Fletcher Free Library .....		I
Cambridge (Mass.), Harvard University Library .....	2	17
Carr, H. H.....	25	
Caulfield, R., Cork, Ireland .....	2	I
Chandler, George, Worcester, Mass.....	I	
Chandler, H. P., Boston .....	I	
Chapman, H. A., Hartford, Conn. ....		I
Chicago, City of.....	5	
Chicago, Board of Public Works .....	5	
Chicago, Fire Department .....	I	
Chicago, West Chicago Park Commissioners .....		I
Chicago, Academy of Sciences .....		2
Chicago, Civil Engineers' Club .....		I
Chicago, Post Office .....	8	56
Chicago, St. Ignatius College .....		2
Childs, George W., Philadelphia .....	I	
Cincinnati University .....		I
Cincinnati, Young Men's Mercantile Library Association .....		I
Cleveland, Public Library .....	I	
Cobden Club, London .....	I	
Collins, Miss Olive .....	52	2
Collyer, Rev. Robert .....	I	
Conlan, James, Jr.....	I	2
Crerar, John .....	Map	
Danvers (Mass.), Peabody Institute .....		I
Dayton (O.), Board of Education .....	I	
Dayton (O.), Public Library .....	I	
Dayton (O.), Public Schools .....	I	
Dean, Dr. M. S.....	2	
Deane, Charles, Boston .....	I	
Dexter, Wirt .....	131	
Donnelley, Loyd & Co. ....	I	
Drake, Dr. E. L., Fayetteville, Tenn.....		I
Dresden, Konigliche Bibliothek .....		2
Du Vernet, P. H.....	I	



	Vols.	Pam.
Earnshaw, Wm., Dayton, O. ....	I	
Edinburgh, Highland and Agricultural Society ....	I	
Edinburgh, Royal Observatory ....	I	
English Dialect Society, London ....		I
Evans, Charles, Indianapolis ....	I	
Fergus, Robert ....		4
Felton, C. E. ....		I
Frederiksen, N. C. ....	I	
French Government ....	9	
"Friend " ....	20	
"Friend " ....	I	
"Friend " ....		I
"Friend," Sheboygan, Wis. ....	6	
Germantown (Pa.), Friends' Free Library ....		2
Great Britain, Commissioners of Patents ....	643	
Green, Dr. Samuel A., Boston ....	I	
Gueroult, T. E. ....		I
Harrison, George L., Philadelphia ....	I	
Hartford (Conn.), Library Association ....		2
Hathaway, Benjamin ....	I	
Hawes, K. ....		2
Hay, Rev. Ch. A. ....		3
Henneberry, Miss K. M. ....	I	
Hild, F. H. ....	I	5
Hill, C. S., New York City ....	I	
Hodgins, J. G., Toronto, Canada ....	I	
Homeyer, H. A. ....	I	
Hough, F. B., Lewis County, New York ....		I
Howson & Son, Philadelphia ....	I	
Hoyne, Hon. Thomas ....	I	
Indianapolis, Public Library ....	I	
Indianapolis, Publishers Indianapolis <i>Journal</i> ....	I	
Illinois, Secretary of State ....	25	14
Isham, Edward S. ....		2
Jameson, John A. ....	I	
Japanese Government ....	I	
Jay, John, New York City ....	I	
Jenney, W. L. B. ....		I
Keener, Wm. T. ....	I	

	Vols.	Pam.
Kinney, Rev. Henry C. ....	5	
Lancashire, W. H. .... Newspapers		6
Lancaster (Mass.), Public Library .....	1	1
Lawrence (Mass.), Public Library .....		5
Lee & Shepard, Boston .....	7	
Leicester (Mass.), Public Library .....		1
Lewis, E. A., London .....	2	
Liverpool (Eng.), Free Public Library .....	4	1
London, London Library .....	1	
London, Royal Astronomical Society .....	3	
London, Royal Geographical Society .....	4	
Long Island Historical Society .....		1
Lowell (Mass.), Public Library .....		2
Lowther, T. D. ....	1	
Lynn (Mass.), Public Library .....		2
McCagg, E. B. ....		1
Madison (Wis.), Board of Education .....		1
Magee, Guy .....	2	
Magoun, Rev. G. F., Grinnell, Iowa .....		1
Manchester (Eng.), Public Free Libraries .....		1
"Manfred," London .....	1	
Mannheimer, Dr. M. ....	1	
Marcy, Oliver .....		1
Maryland Historical Society .....		1
Massachusetts, Bureau of Labor Statistics .....	1	
Massachusetts, Department of State .....	30	6
Massachusetts, State Board of Health .....	2	
Massachusetts, State Library .....		1
Melrose (Mass.), Public Library .....		1
Michell, Nicholas, Falmouth, England .....	7	
Michigan, Secretary of State .....	1	
Missouri, State University .....	1	
Mount Holyoke Seminary .....	1	
Nash, Joseph, Boston .....		1
New Bedford (Mass.), Public Library .....		1
New England Society, of Orange, New Jersey .....		1
New Haven (Conn.), Yale College .....	3	2
New York City, Apprentices' Library .....		1
New York City, Astor Library .....		1

	Vols.	Pam.
New York City, Columbia College .....	3	
New York City, Produce Exchange .....	2	
New York City, Railroad Young Men's Christian Asso. ....		2
New York City, Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen .....		1
New York City, Young Men's Christian Association .....		1
New York, Secretary of State .....	14	5
New York, State Library .....		3
Newport (R. I.), Redwood Library .....		1
Newton (Mass.), Free Library .....		1
Oat, Charles, Philadelphia .....		1
Ohio, Auditor of State .....	1	
Ohio, Insurance Department .....	2	
Ohio, Secretary of State .....		2
Ohio, State Library .....	21	
Omaha (Neb.), Board of Trade .....		1
Onahan, Wm. J. ....	20	32
Oxford University, Bodleian Library .....		1
Paris, Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme .....		1
Patten, Wm. L. & Co., Denver, Col. ....		4
Peabody, S. H. ....		2
Peabody (Mass.), Institute .....		2
Pennsylvania, Secretary of State .....	14	
Pennsylvania, Eastern State Penitentiary .....	1	
Pennsylvania, Western State Penitentiary .....		1
Peoria (Ill.), Board of Trade .....		1
Pernin, A. J. ....	1	
Philadelphia, Library Company .....		2
Philadelphia, Loganian Library .....	1	
Philadelphia, Mercantile Library .....		1
Phillips, H., Jr., Philadelphia .....	1	
Plymouth (Eng.), Free Library .....		1
Poole, Wm. F. ....	1	6
Poole, Wm. F., Jr. ....	1	
Portland (Oregon), Library Association .....		1
Preston, Edward, London .....	1	
Providence (R. I.), Athenæum .....		1
Providence (R. I.), Brown University .....		1
Quaritch, Bernard, London .....	1	10
Randolph, Charles .....	2	2



	Vols.	Pam.
Roadnight, Harry S. ....	I	
Roadnight, Mrs. H. ....	2	
Rosenthal, Julius ....	3	
St. Louis, Academy of Science ....	I	
St. Louis, Mercantile Library ....		2
St. Louis, Public School Library ....		I
St. Louis, University ....		I
San Francisco, Mercantile Library ....	I	2
San Francisco, Odd Fellows' Library Association ....		I
Sanders, J. H. ....	I	
Sheffield (Eng.), Public Library ....		I
Shipman, Dr. George E. ....	I	
Skinner, M. Frank ....	I	
Smith, J. C. ....	I	
Smith, Wm. Henry ....		2
Snydacker, A. ....	I	
Sotheran, Henry, London ....	2	
South Carolina, State Library ....	I	
Springfield (Mass.), City Library Association ....		I
Stearns, R. E. C., San Francisco ....		3
Steele, Henry T. ....	I	
Sterns, E. E., New York City ....	I	
Stockport (Eng.), Public Free Library ....		I
Stone, Prof. O., Cincinnati ....		2
Storr, J. S., London ....	I	
Strunk, Wm., Cincinnati ....		2
Sullivan, W. B. ....	Map	
Taunton (Mass.), Public Library ....	I	
Tennessee, Department of Agriculture ....	8	
Toledo (O.), Public Library ....		2
Toronto, Mechanics' Institute ....		I
U. S. Bureau of Education ....		4
U. S. Bureau of Ordnance ....	I	
U. S. Bureau of Statistics ....		4
U. S. Commissioner of Patents ....	24	
U. S. Department of State ....	3	
U. S. Interior Department ....	56	
U. S. Library of Congress ....		I
U. S. Naval Observatory ....	2	



	Vols.	Pam.
U. S. Treasury Department .....	2	
Upham, Wm. P., Salem, Mass. ....	3	8
Van der Kolk, H. ....	10	
Vermont Historical Society .....	1	
Ward, Elijah, New York City .....	1	
Waterton (Mass.), Free Public Library .....		1
Watteville, Baron de, Paris .....	1	3
Wells, W. H. ....		1
Wetherell, John G., Boston .....		1
Wheeler, Prof. C. G. ....	1	
Whitaker, A. E., San Francisco .....	1	7
Williams, Judge E. S. ....	1	
Wilmington (Del.) Institute .....		2
Wisconsin Historical Society .....		1
Woburn (Mass.), Public Library .....	1	
Worcester (Mass.), Free Public Library .....		1
Unknown .....	6	6

## SERIALS DONATED.

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Alliance.  
American Home.  
Chicago Medical Journal.  
    Proceedings Common Council.  
    Railway Review.  
Engineering News.  
Factory and Farm.  
Folio.  
Friend, The.  
Health Reformer.  
Humane Journal, (Ill.)  
Kindergarten.  
Legal News.  
Lumberman's Gazette.  
Musical Review.  
Music Trade Review.  
National Board of Trade.  
National Live Stock Journal.  
Neue Heim.  
New Jerusalem Messenger.  
Notre Dame Scholastic.  
Pamphlet Mission.  
Pharmacist.  
Presbyterian Record.  
Printers' Circular.  
Real Estate Journal.  
Railroad Conductors' Brotherhood Magazine.  
Unitarian Review.  
United States Review.  
Voice of Masonry.  
Western Agriculturist.

Western, The.  
Youth's Instructor.

## ENGLISH.

Brewers' Guardian.  
Homœopathic Review.  
Investor's Monthly Manual.  
Monthly Notices of Royal Astronomical Society.  
Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society.

## DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

Boston Herald.  
Chicago Arbeiter Zeitung.  
    Freie Presse.  
    Hotel Reporter.  
    Inter-Ocean, 1 copy.  
    Post, 1 copy.  
    Skandinaven.  
    Staats Zeitung, 2 copies.  
    Weather Bulletin.  
Jersey City Evening Journal.

## WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.

Atlantic City (N. J.) Weekly Review.  
Battle Creek (Mich.) Advent Review.  
Boston, Christian Register.  
    Pionier.  
Chicago, Argus.  
    Amerikan.  
    Chicagsky Věstnik.  
    Commercial Advertiser.  
    Daheim.  
    Gamla och Nya Hemlandet.  
    Gazetta Polska.  
    Gazetta Polska Katolicka.  
    Hejmdal.  
    Interior.  
    Israelitische Presse.  
    Irish Tribune.

Chicago, Journal of Commerce.  
Katolisches Wochenblatt.  
Leaf, The.  
New Covenant.  
Norden.  
Nya Verlden.  
Occident.  
Pilot.  
Standard.  
Svenska Amerikanern.  
Verbote, 2 copies.  
Westen.  
Western Catholic.  
Western Shoe and Leather Review.  
Cleveland, Dêlnické Listy.  
Denver, Rocky Mountain Herald.  
Kankakee (Ill.), Courier de l'Illinois.  
New York, Gerner's Weekly.  
Irish American.  
Irish World.  
Mining Record.  
Oakland (Cal.), Signs of the Times.  
Omaha (Neb.), Pokrok Zapadu.  
Panama, Star and Herald.  
Racine (Wis.), Slavie.  
San Francisco, Spirit of the Times.  
Washington (D. C.), Sentinel.